

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-24, 26, 28-33 and 35-37 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 26, 28 - 33, 36, and 37 are amended. Claims 4, 14 and 32 have been cancelled by a previous amendment, and claims 25 and 27 are cancelled by this amendment.

Amendments to the claims are respectfully requested to be entered, because the amendments to the claims overcome the Examiner's claim objections and rejections, or places the claims in a condition of allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the amendments and following remarks.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to FIGS. 5 and 8 for various typographical errors.

Applicant has amended FIGS. 5 and 8 to overcome the Examiner's objections. Withdraw of the objection is requested.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the Title for lack of clarity and has objected to the Specification for various typographical errors.

While Applicant generally agrees with the Examiner's objections and has amended the specification accordingly, Applicant traverses several of the objections.

With respect to page 13, paragraph [0036], line 6, Applicant submits that while the Specification refers to "DRA1k[0:X]." Figure 5 *incorrectly* refers to "DRA1y[0:X]." Applicant has amended Figure 8 to correct for this typographical error. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection.

With respect to page 16, paragraph [0043], Applicant submits that the specification correctly refers to “decoding signal DRA0k”, as shown in FIG. 5.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the outstanding objections to the specification be withdrawn.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to claim 19-31 because of informalities. To overcome the Examiner’s claim objections, please note that claims 19 and 29 have been amended. In view of the amendments, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the claim objections.

35 U.S.C. §112 CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 6, 8, 10-13, 17-18, and 25-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “a second voltage higher than the power supply voltage,” to distinguish from “the first voltage power” recited in claim 1.
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 10 has been amended to remove the term “first” from -- the first high voltage --.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “a first voltage higher than the power supply voltage,” to distinguish from “a voltage” recited in claim 10.

Claim 25 is cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claim 19. In addition, the “first MOS transistor” of claim 25 has been amended to “the fifth MOS transistor” in claim 19. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 29 has been amended to depend on claim 28.

Claim 30 has been amended to clarify that each inverter is coupled to each corresponding fifth internal node, and that each inverter drives the corresponding word line of each of the row decoder and driver circuit.

Claim 31 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “a first voltage higher than the power supply voltage,” to distinguish from “a high voltage” recited in claim 19.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 6, 8, 10-13, 17-18, and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims.

Claims 5-9, 15-16, 18, 32-33, and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 5 and 15 have been respectively amended to depend on non-cancelled claims.

Claim 7 has been cancelled, thereby, rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection thereof.

Claim 18 has been amended to give proper antecedent basis to “a memory” recited in claim 10.

The first MOS transistor recited in claim 33 has been incorporated into claim 32 to thereby give proper basis for the second and third MOS transistors recited in claim 32.

Due to the improper indications to original claims 35-36, Applicants assume that the amendments made to claims 35 and 36 in response to the previous amendments were not entered. Accordingly, claims 35 and 36 are again amended to show proper indications of additions and deletions.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 5-9, 15-16, 18, 32-33, and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-3 are allowable. Applicants acknowledge that claims 27-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge that claims 10 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections set forth under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants acknowledge that claims 5-9, 11-13, 15-18, 29-31, 33, and 35-37 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections set forth under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Wright Rejection

Claims 19-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wright et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,283). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's rejection reasons, Applicants have amended claim 19 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 27 and intervening claim 25. Applicants submit that claim 19-24, and 26 are now in a condition of allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims -3, 5-13, 15-24, 26, 28-33 and 35-37 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

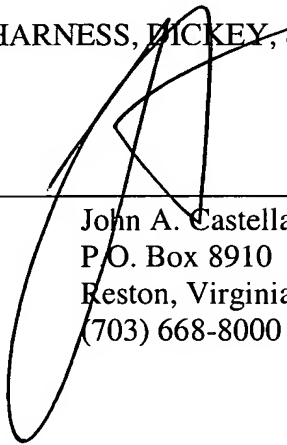
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35, 094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/MJL/LYP: tlt

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet includes changes to Figures 5 and 8. These replacement sheets, replace the original sheet including Figures 5 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)